THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI P. V. NARASIMHA RAO): (a) and (b) Information is being colected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Protector of Archaeological places in Bihar

2396. SHRI S. S. AHLUWALIA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the efforts made by Government to protect the important places of idols of archaeological and historical importance in Bihar and the amount spent during the last three years on the development of each of these places; and

(b) number and details of idols sent abroad for festivals of India, to museums and at other places indicating the estimated prices of each of them and arrangements made for their protection?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI P. V. NARASIMHA RAO): (a) Efforts made to safeguard the 76 sites/monuments of historical importance protected centrally in Bihar include:

(i) enhancement of the watch and ward arrangement;

(ii) posting of armed guards at the Bodh-Gaya and Nalanda site museums;

(iii) appointment of a Security Officer in the Patna Circle of the Archaeological Survey of India and periodical inspections of such site/monuments by other officers of the Survey;

(iv) Collection of sculptures for building sculpture sheds to safeguard the loose sculptures.

The amount spent on the upkeep and preservation of the centrally protected monuments in Bihar during the last three years is as under:

(Rs. in lakhs)

Year	Expenditure
1983-84	6.58
1984-85	7.98
1985-86	8.60
1986-87 (Allocation)	21.25

(b) For the Festival of India exhibition, through National Museum, New Delhi, 44 idols and paintings were sent abroad. Their total insurance value amounts to Rs. 44 crores 86 lakhs and 25 thousands. The internal exchange of arts object is individual, matter between the respective museums and no details of such movements are available. However, steps taken for the protection and security of art objects being sent to different places are as under:

(i) the exhibits when carried by road, in India or abroad, are escorted by Armed Police Guards;

(ii) handling of exhibits is done by the expert of Museum profession under continuous supervision by competent officers of the Museum profession;

(iii) packing of exhibits in strong wooden boxes having thick thermocol lining, wrapping of exhibits in bubble plastics, tissue papers, rubber foam, quilts, cotton waste, jewellery boxes etc.;

(iv) examination of each exhibits by conservation experts who are to certify about its fitness to travel abroad; and

(v) the steps taken for the security of the exhibits included, wall-to-wall insurance to cover all risks from the time the exhibits are picked up from the lending institutions/collections and till the time they are returned back to the